

SEVERE STORMS FOR APRIL 1949

[The table hereunder contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A revised list will appear in the United States Meteorological Yearbook]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Flour Bluff Community, Nueces County, Tex.	1	11:30 a. m.			\$34,000	Hail and wind	Minor damage to crops. Glass broken in hundreds of autos. Several small buildings demolished. 1 airplane demolished and 3 others damaged. Hail light.
Starke, Clay County, Fla.	3	2-3 p. m.		0	10,000	Tornado	1 person injured. 1 home destroyed and 6 damaged; 2 other buildings destroyed and 2 damaged.
Berkshire County, Mass., Rutland and Bennington Counties, Vt., White Mountain region, N. H.	6	P. m.				Gales	Gales with gusts estimated as high as 100 m. p. h. at South Shaftsbury Airport, Vt., where hangar and 3 planes demolished. Electric services disrupted as many poles and trees were felled; roofs blown away; small buildings displaced or collapsed. Storm of type colloquially termed "sherkshire" in Fownal Valley of Vermont. Lightning and hail in some sections. Several inches of snow fell in Berkshires, northern New Hampshire and central Maine, impeding traffic.
Provincetown, Mass.	6				30,000	do.	Winds of whole gale force produced unusually heavy seas in harbor and caused loss of 5 small boats; damaged several others; considerable damage to Monument Wharf.
Rhode Island, coastal area.	6			1		Gales and rain	Southeast to southwest gale winds up to 65 m. p. h. with accompanying high tides caused extensive damage to fishing boats and shore properties. Power lines down and service interrupted. At Danielson, Conn., man electrocuted when aerial of radio set blown against power line.
Gloucester, Mass.	6			1		Gales	A fisherman swept overboard from trawler by high waves, and drowned.
New Hanover County, N. C.	7	8:50-8:56 p. m.			7,500	Hail	Hailstones 1 to 1½ inches in diameter. Severe damage to green-houses in Wilmington. Some crop damage.
Pittsburgh, Pa.	7				1,000	Electrical	Lightning struck tower of Radio Station WPGH and demolished tuning equipment.
Lafayette County, south-central part, Mo.	10			1		do.	Boy killed by lightning in field 6 miles southwest of Higginsville.
Montgomery, Ala.	11	5:35 a. m.			2,500	Thundersquall	1 small plane destroyed at Norman Bridge Airport; 1 damaged slightly at Allenport air field and another damaged slightly at Norman Bridge Airport. Also some minor building damage in Montgomery.
Flintstone (near), Walker County, Ga.	12	5:25-5:43 p. m.	100	0	3,000	Tornado	Path extended about 3 miles east-northeastward. Tore hole in roof and blew in walls of 1 home; otherwise building damage confined to roofs. Many trees blown down through rural section.
Meriwether County, south-eastern part, Ga.	12	6:30-6:35 p. m.	100	1	150,000	do.	Moved north-northeastward. Struck first on Pine Mountain, destroying home and uprooting several large trees. Lifted and dipped to earth several times along 2-mile path through business and residential areas of Manchester. 1 person killed and 20 injured. Gasoline service station demolished. 3 business stores heavily damaged. 25 homes and 7 other buildings destroyed; 15 homes and 15 other buildings damaged. Many trees blown down. Power and telephone lines blown down, leaving town without services throughout night.
Zebulon, Ga.	12	7:10-7:15 p. m.	300-400	1	125,000	do.	Moved northeastward along 8-mile path. 2 business houses, 10 homes, and 42 smaller buildings destroyed; moderate to heavy damages to 55 homes and 63 smaller buildings, including toppling of courthouse tower. Many trees, power and telephone lines blown down, disrupting electric and phone services throughout night. 3 persons injured.
Griffin, Ga.	12	7:30 p. m.		0	35,000	do.	Moved eastward, blowing down a water tower and doing material damage to a textile mill in south Griffin, then lifted, striking again in east Griffin, heavily damaging a church and damaging 25 homes, also numerous smaller buildings. 5 persons injured.
Bethany Community (near McDonough), Ga.	12	7:45 p. m.		2		Wind (possibly tornadoic).	Moved eastward to 3 miles east of McDonough. 2 persons killed and 5 injured. A large home, tenant house, and several smaller buildings destroyed; 4 buildings damaged. Small area affected.
Covington, Newton County, Ga.	12	9 p. m.		0		Tornadoic	Only Red Cross report available on this storm. 3 homes and 16 other buildings destroyed; 6 homes damaged.
Hogansville, Ga.	12					do.	Only Red Cross report available, which indicates 3 persons injured, 3 homes destroyed and 4 homes damaged.
Roanoke County, Va.	13	Noon				Hail	Windows broken.
Natural Bridge, Va.	13	12-1 p. m.				Rain	Highway inundated. Farm buildings half-covered with rising water.
Richmond, Va.	13	6 p. m.			500	Electrical	Lightning toppled chimney and knocked plaster loose in 1 residence.
Ponca City, Okla.	13	7:50 p. m.	200		1,500	Wind	Gusty winds caused damage to greenhouse and 5 residences.
Mount Vernon and vicinity, Ind.	14	1:20 p. m.	13		5,000	Wind and hail	Hail stones up to ¾-inch in diameter.
Jefferson City, Mo.	14	2:30-9 p. m.			1,000	Wind	Shingles blown off roofs. 1 roof torn off. Rain and sleet accompanied wind, but did no damage.
Stewart's Creek Valley (near Glenville), W. Va.	14	3-4 p. m.			2,000	Flash flood	Garage washed away against bridge. Gardens damaged. Dirt road washed out. About half of monetary damage to gardens.
Wood and Ritchie Counties, W. Va.	14	Late afternoon				Rain and wind	Many gardens destroyed. Dirt roads damaged. Wind damage to several homes. Foundation for a new home washed away.
Greene County, Ind.	14	6:30 p. m.	15	0	5,000	Tornado	Moved northwest of Linton in northeastward path ¼ mile long. Small funnel seen.
St. Louis County and city of St. Louis, Mo.	14-15	8 a. m., 14th to 1 p. m. 15th.				Thunderstorm and wind.	Thunderstorm in morning and high wind throughout day and night continuing into next day caused widespread property damage: felling trees and wires, breaking numerous plate-glass windows and damaging roofs, cornices, chimneys, and other sections of buildings and homes. Some damage reported in East St. Louis, Ill. Some power lines and streetcars disabled when struck by lightning during morning storm. A few homes struck by lightning, but no serious damage resulted.
Wisconsin, eastern portion	14-15	Night			50,000	Wind	Power lines, tree limbs, and signs broken at Milwaukee. Part of church steeple blown down, building damaged, and garage demolished at Green Bay.
West Plains and central Howell County, Mo.	14-15		125		5,000	do.	Damage confined to buildings in and around West Plains. 1 barn twisted on foundation, and roof blown off another. Other damage consisted mainly of shingles blown off roofs and other minor damage.
Nebraska, eastern portion	14-15		175			Snow and winds	Heavy damp snow, ranging up to 8 inches. Wires in parts of northeast downed because of large quantity of clinging heavy snow; considerable interruption of power and communications.

See footnote at end of table.

SEVERE STORMS FOR APRIL 1949—Continued

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Laquin and Shunk, (Schrader Creek), Pa.	15	11-11:10 a. m.	200	0	4,000	Tornado	Moved northeastward in narrow valley through abandoned lumber village and CCC camp. 2 fishermen picked up by tornado, suffered injuries when they fell to ground. 2 cars damaged when trees uprooted and toppled on them. Man had shirt ripped off and rest of clothes torn. Others had fishing tackle and catch carried away by tornado. Hail, preceding tornado, $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter. Large barn carried across road and landed against home, breaking all windows. Valuable cow killed. Area affected 5 to 6 square miles. Loss of virgin timber, orchards, and buildings not included in total.
Harrisburg, Pa.	15	11:30 a. m.-1:30 p. m.			3,600	Wind	Signboard blown over onto 2 parked cars. Two 4,000-volt high-tension wires blew together and pole set afire. Television tower toppled onto building roof.
Carlisle (near Brandtsville), Pa.	15	11:30 a. m.-1:30 p. m.			2,500	do	2 barns and 1 house unroofed. 9 telephone poles down. Several trees blown down and many branches snapped off.
Towanda, Pa.	15	11:50 a. m.-12:45 p. m.				Hail and thunderstorm	2 separate thundershowers. Hail averaged $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter, with largest $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches.
Richmond, Va.	15	2 p. m.			1,000	Wind	1 house unroofed. Concrete block wall in process of erection toppled, injuring 1 workman. Other minor damage.
West Palm Beach Airport, Fla.	15	3:46-3:57 p. m.				Hail	Light to heavy hail fell over area approximately 6 by 8 miles including most of the city of West Palm Beach and extending southward. Stones of hen's egg size reported from some points. Some damage to gardens and truck crops.
Barre, Vt.	15	Afternoon		1		Electrical	Lightning struck a house and barn, killing a farmhand in barn.
Barkhamstead, Conn.	15	do		1		Electrical and rain	Pilot killed when plane crashed and exploded due either to lightning stroke or heavy rain.
Pittsfield, Maine	15	do				Electrical	20 registered Jersey cattle killed when lightning set barn afire.
Baltimore, Md.	15	p. m.				Wind	Strong winds blew ladder from side of a house, causing painter to fall. He suffered fractures of both arms, and head injuries.
Michigan, entire State	15	Day			26,000	Electrical	Widespread thunderstorm activity caused some local damage to property. Loss of \$12,000 resulted at farm near Marshall when 2 barns, a hogpen, double corncrib, shed and farm equipment destroyed by fire, evidently caused by lightning. In addition, 2 horses killed. Near Homer a barn and farm equipment valued at \$6,000 burned. House and barn near Bedford struck by lightning and practically destroyed; damage estimated at \$8,000.
Reno, Nev.	18	12:40-1:12 p. m.	67	0		Tornado	A particularly heavy cumulus cloud to the north of Reno dropped a clearly defined funnel from its base. First touched ground in vicinity of dry lake about 15 miles north of city; moved slowly eastward across low divide between Lemon Valley and Spanish Springs Valley, crossed Spanish Springs Valley in an east-northeastward direction, and finally broke up on the eastern side of Spanish Springs Valley. Entire path approximately 12 miles long and laid roughly across Reno Sky Ranch about center of Spanish Springs Valley. Funnel clearly visible from all parts of city and seen by many people. Twisted and torn juniper trees and desert sage showed that tornado was sufficiently well developed to have destroyed buildings, although none in its path. No damage, except removal of a skylight from south hangar of Reno Sky Ranch. Tornado immediately followed by heavy hail, which averaged about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter and covered ground to depth of about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. No damage by hail.
San Angelo, Tex.	18	9:05 p. m.	10-20		125,000	Hail	Stripped fruit trees, battered truck gardens, and damaged some roofs. 2 airplanes at North Conchofield badly damaged. Heavy hail; average size $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter. Accompanying rain of considerable benefit to surviving crops; probably offsetting damage of \$50,000 to crops.
Shallowater area, Lubbock County, Tex.	18	9:30 p. m.		0	5,000	Tornado and hail	Hail light. Roof lifted, house demolished, and barn damaged.
Tatum, Lea County, N. Mex.	18	10 p. m.			1,000	Hail	All loss estimated to be from tornado.
Del Rio, Tex.	19	12:55 a. m.	13		1,525,000	do	Damage to crops, \$15,000; livestock and poultry, \$10,000; to buildings and other property, \$1,500,000. Fruit crop totally destroyed. Public schools suffered loss of about 3,000 window panes and damage to roofs and interiors estimated about \$60,000. Approximately 1,000 cars damaged at an average of \$300 per car. Average hailstone, 1 inch.
Chaves County, southeastern part, N. Mex.	20	Afternoon			22,500	Rain and hail	Estimated 10,000 acres of cotton to be replanted.
Mobile, Ala.	21	5:30-6:45 p. m.			10,000	Thundersquall	Damage due to wind and water combined. Maximum wind for 5 minutes, 49 m. p. h.; extreme, 59 m. p. h. 3.51 inches of rain fell in an hour. Many sections of town flooded, with water damage in stores.
Sedalia, southern part, Mo.	22	7-7:10 p. m.	2 blocks			Wind	Called by local newspaper a "small tornado." Destroyed 2 garages; pushed back shingles on roofs of 2 buildings; ripped down 8 telephone wires and tore off cross arms on telephone poles.
Sandia, Nueces County, Tex.	23	12 a. m.			1,000	Hail and wind	Hail light. Airplane damaged at Cuddihy Field by high wind.
Puget Sound—Olympic Peninsula, Wash.	23	8 a. m.-10 p. m.		4		Wind	Storm winds, accompanying a large disturbance, did widespread but relatively light damage to communication and power lines. 3 men drowned in Lake Crescent due to capsized fishing boats. One death near Bremerton due to falling tree. Some cornices and brickwork, weakened by earthquake of Apr. 13 in Seattle, were loosened or brought down by winds. Property damage relatively light. At Seattle Weather Bureau Office winds reached a maximum of 38 m. p. h. from south at 1:38 p. m.
Pasquotank County, N. C.	23	3-3:40 p. m.			750	Hail	Damage mostly to cabbage around Elizabeth City.
Scotland Neck, Halifax County, N. C.	23	6-6:20 p. m.				do	Damage to crops and windows.
Baltimore County, Md.	24	10:30 a. m.		3		Wind	14-foot outboard motor boat capsized on Chesapeake Bay near Miller Island just to north of mouth of Patapsco River; 2 men and a 5-year-old boy drowned.
Epsom, Vance County, N. C.	24	Early afternoon				do	Tin roofing blown off. Falling trees disrupted telephone and electrical service.
Jordan Dam and Buyck, Elmore County, Ala.	24	3 p. m.			10,000	Thundersquall	Wind damage to buildings. Considerable hail, diameter of a dime.
Whitehall (near), Wis.	25	8 p. m.			15,000	Wind	3 barns partly demolished. 1 ski jump partly blown down.
Renville, LeSueur and Rice Counties, Minn.	25	P. m.		0	75,000	Thundersqualls (possibly small tornadoes).	Storm moved southeastward, accompanied by heavy rain and hail. A number of barns, outbuildings, silos, and windmills demolished. Farm and town houses, buildings, and farm machinery damaged. Trees uprooted. Poles and wires downed. 5 head of livestock perished. 1 person injured.
Greenwood County, Kans.	26	12:30 p. m.		0		Tornado	Vortex cloud seen 3 miles west and 1 north of Climax. Cloud dipped to ground twice and disappeared.
Holmes County, Miss.	26	Early afternoon			15,000	Wind	1 home destroyed and 4 others damaged.

See footnote at end of table.

SEVERE STORMS FOR APRIL 1949—Continued

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Hamilton, Kearny, and Finney Counties, Kans.	26	4:10-5:30 p. m.	-----	0	900,000	Hail and tornado	Chief damage at and in vicinity of Lakin. 4 planes virtually destroyed at Lakin Airport. Much damage to window glass and roofs in town. Some hailstones reported as large as baseballs. Considerable damage to crops. Tornado clouds reported at and near Lakin, but apparently did not reach ground.
Meade and Clark Counties, Kans.	26	6 p. m.	1 1½	-----	5,000	Hail	In southeastern Meade and southwestern Clark Counties, near Englewood. Damage mostly to wheat.
Stanton County, Kans.	26	6 p. m.	1 8	-----	25,000	do.	Mostly in eastern part of county over path 11 miles long. Damage to wheat. Some hailstones as large as tennis balls.
Buffalo and vicinity, Harper County, Okla.	26	6:30 p. m.	-----	-----	15,000	do.	About \$5,000 damage to wheat, and \$10,000 damage to automobiles and buildings in an area 5 miles by 20 miles.
Hogansville, Ga.	27	4:45-5 p. m.	400	-----	3,500	Wind	Moved east-northeastward and limited to local area about 400 yards square. Numerous small homes damaged. Roof of 1 business house partly blown off, causing much damage to stored stock. 1 automobile heavily damaged. Numerous trees blown down. Power and telephone services temporarily disrupted.
Hobbs, N. Mex.	27	5 p. m.	-----	-----	75,000	Hail	Unusually large stones, reported up to 3½ inches in diameter. Principal damage to electric signs, windows, roofs, light and power lines.
Corpus Christi, Tex.	28	10:30 a. m.	5-7	0	3,000	Tornado	In small area at North Beach. Several boats damaged. Tin roof torn. Water drains ripped from roof. Trailer top damaged.
Kermit, Winkler County, Tex.	28	-----	-----	-----	-----	Hail and wind	Damage estimated at several thousand dollars in the city's worst hailstorm.
Sanford, Fla.	29	4:30 p. m.	-----	-----	500	Wind and hail	High wind accompanying a thunderstorm damaged some roofs.
Kearny and Finney Counties, Kans.	30	Noon to 3:15 p. m.	-----	-----	135,000	Hail	From near Lakin to a point northeast of Garden City. Damage mostly to wheat.
Logan and Thomas Counties, Kans.	30	1:30-5:30 p. m.	1 2-6	-----	50,000	do.	In northern Logan and southern Thomas Counties over path about 35 miles long. Chief damage to wheat.
Kearny and Finney Counties, Kans.	30	2-2:30 p. m.	-----	0	10,000	Tornado	Originated short distance north of Lakin. Path ended 20 miles northeast of Garden City. Several vortex clouds seen. No towns struck. No persons injured. Damage to rural property.
Wichita County, Kans.	30	2 and 4 p. m.	-----	-----	25,000	Hail	10 miles west of Leoti near Selkirk at 2 p. m. In northern part of county at 4 p. m. Damage to wheat.
Midway community (5 miles east and ¼ mile south of Eldorado), Jackson County, Okla.	30	2:45 p. m.	-----	0	1,000	Tornado	Storm moved northeast for about ½ mile in narrow path. Vacant house destroyed.
McClain, Cleveland, Pottawatomie, and Lincoln Counties, Okla.	30	2:57-after 4:55 p. m.	250	3	800,000	Tornado and hail	Path not continuous. Storm began 5 miles northeast of Blanchard; moved northeastward to north campus of University at Norman where it hit at 2:57 p. m. Rate of movement about 15 m. p. h. After leaving Norman Campus storm turned to its left and moved north-northeastward for about 8 miles striking the Hollywood Farm, then turned northeastward to 4 miles east of Stella then through Shawnee Lake area, south of McLoud and Dale at 4:55 p. m. and into Lincoln County through Crescent School east of Meeker and Payson. 48 persons injured near Norman and 8 in Pottawatomie and Lincoln Counties. 31 buildings, 12 vehicles, and 10 airplanes damaged near Norman. 9 farm homes destroyed in Cleveland County. Crescent School severely damaged and house nearby destroyed. 3 houses damaged at Payson. 2 deaths near Crescent School when tornado struck automobile and demolished it. 1 death near Shawnee Lake. Most of damage to University property near Norman, estimated at \$600,000.
Scott and Lane Counties, Kans.	30	3-3:30 p. m.	-----	-----	100,000	Hail	Scattered areas in Scott County, and southeast of Dighton, in Lane County. Damage to wheat.
Comanche and Grady Counties, Okla.	30	3-4:30 p. m.	200-300	0	20,000	Tornado	Several farmsteads damaged northeast of Lawton. 2 semi-trailer trucks overturned on highway. Near Agawam and west of Richland in southern Grady County, 5 farm homes destroyed. School near Marlow destroyed; 4 persons injured. Path 30 miles long in northeastward direction.
Logan County, Kans.	30	3:30 p. m.	-----	0	2,500	do.	Vortex cloud seen at Oakley during rainstorm. Path not well defined. Extended from a mile west of Oakley to a mile east of that town. Roof of flower shop and uncompleted hall of Veterans of Foreign Wars damaged in Oakley.
Jackson County, Okla.	30	3:45-5 p. m.	-----	-----	25,000	Hail	Hail damage to wheat, offset to a large extent by benefits from needed rains in area south of Altus near Oltusee and Friendship.
Tillman County, Okla.	30	3:45-5 p. m.	440	0	100,000	Tornado and hail	6 different funnels sighted northeast and northwest of Frederick and east of Davidson. 1 injury. Persons took to their caves. About \$95,000 damage to farmsteads. \$5,000 hail damage to wheat.
Garvin and McClain Counties, Okla.	30	4:30-6:45 p. m.	150	0	39,000	Tornado	Storm moved northeastward from southeast of Lindsay through Maysville and Wayne for about 25 miles, touching ground at intervals. 1 injury.
Econtuchka, Pottawatomie County, Okla.	30	4:45 p. m.	2,250	0	10,000	do.	No injuries. Storm damaged or destroyed 8 homes as it moved northward over path about 8 miles long.
Duncan (12 miles east of), Stephens County, Okla.	30	5:20 p. m.	300	0	6,000	do.	Moved northeastward. Struck Omaraca Camp, but no injuries.
Mitchell County, Kans.	30	5:30-7 p. m.	-----	-----	2,000	Hail	In several parts of county. Hailstones small.
Bryan and Choctaw Counties, Okla.	30	5:31 p. m.	440	1	25,000	Tornado and hail	Northeastward path about 55 miles long from near Utica to Bennington to Nelson community; 3 injured; death near Utica; 6 homes near and at Bennington damaged.
Hodgeman County, Kans.	30	6 p. m.	880	0	-----	Tornado	14 miles southeast of Jetmore, a short distance east of Highway No. 283. Path 5 miles long. Slight damage at 3 farmsteads.
Choctaw and Pushmataha Counties, Okla.	30	6-7:30 p. m.	1,760	2	603,000	do.	Northeastward path, not continuous, from southwest of Boswell near Soper to Spencerville for about 50 miles parallel and about 10 miles to the south of tornado in Bryan and Choctaw Counties listed above. 6 injured. 1 death in southern Pushmataha County, 1 at Spencerville.
Bonham, Fannin County, Tex.	30	6:55 p. m.	50	3	75,000	Tornado, hail, and wind	Only slight hail damage. Most of damage from tornado. Homes, barns, business houses levelled or twisted off foundations. Trees uprooted. Crops damaged by flying debris. 9 persons injured. 1 death due to heart attack (not included in those killed).

¹ Miles instead of yards.